

Message Text

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ACTION COA-02

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DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

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AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

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AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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SUBJECT: 13TH ANNUAL MTF OF THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIEIS

COMMISSION (NEAFC), BONN, JUNE 26-JULY 2, 1974.

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B. COPENHAGEN A-3

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C. COPENHAGEN A-49

D. COPENHAGEN 740
E. COPENHAGEN 1411

SUMMARY: THE TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH (TAC) QUOTA AND COUNTRY ALLOCATIONS ON THE NORTH SEA HERRING STOCKS BECAME A REALITY FOR THE 1974/75 SEASON AS NORWAY AND POLAND WITHDREW THEIR OBJECTIONS TO THE RECOMMENDATION. POSTAL VOTES WILL BE TAKEN ON TACS FOR HERRING STOCKS WEST OF SCOTLAND AND FOR SOLE AND PLAICE. THE SOVIET DELEGATION EXTENDED A VAGUELY DEFINED INVITATION TO A SPECIAL MEETING OF ALL MEMBERS OF NEAFC AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES, SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN THE SOVIET UNION AROUND THE BEGINNING OF 1975, TO DISCUSS IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ON NORTH ATLANTIC FISHERIES. THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC ACCDED TO THE NEAFC CONVENTION. END SUMMARY.

1. THE TAC FOR NORTH SEA HERRING WAS AGREED UPON FOR THE JULY 1, 1974 TO JUNE 30, 1975 SEASON AS NORWAY AND POLAND WITHDREW THEIR OBJECTIONS TO THE NEAFC RECOMMENDATION PROPOSED AFTER APPROVAL OF SAME BY A POSTAL VOTE IN APRIL (REFS C AND D). INITIALLY, THE TWO DELEGATIONS TOOK A HARD STAND AT THE PRESENT MEETING ALONG THE USUAL POINTS OF CONTENTION, E.G., COUNTRY ALLOCATIONS. (REF B). OTHER DELEGATIONS WERE PROMPTED TO REMARK THAT THEY WOULD RECONSIDER THEIR POSITION IF THE TWO DID NOT ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION. NORWAY AND POLAND WITHDREW THEIR OBJECTIONS WHEN THE COMMISSION, WITH ONLY ICELAND OPPOSING, APPROVED A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE DELEGATES TO SEEK A TAC FOR THE 1975-76 SEASON WHICH WOULD ALLOW FASTER RECOVERY OF THE STOCKS AND WHICH WOULD GIVE GREATER WEIGHT TO HISTROIC PERFORMANCE IN SETTING COUNTRY ALLOCATIONS.

2. POSTAL VOTES WILL BE TAKEN ON A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS RELATING TO THE SOLE AND PLAICE FISHERIES INCLUDING THE SETTING OF TACS AND COUNTRY ALLOCATIONS ON SELECTED STOCKS OF SUCH SPECIES. NEED TO REDUCE THE CATCH OF NORTH SEA SOLE IS ESPECIALLY URGENT. A TAC OF 12,500 TONS WAS PROPOSED, COMPARED WITH THE CATCH OF 19,560 UNCLASSIFIED

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TONS IN 1973. ACCEPTING REDUCED CATCHES OF NORTH SEA SOLE WILL BE PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT BUT NECESSARY FOR THE NETHERLANDS WHICH NOT ONLY ACCOUNTS FOR MOST OF THE LANDINGS BUT ALSO FINDS THAT SOLE ACCOUNTS FOR AROUND ONE-THIRD BY VALUE OF ITS FISHERY LANDINGS. OTHER DELEGATIONS TOOK EXCEPTION TO SECTIONS OF THIS AND OTHER PROPOSALS ON SOLE AND PLAICE.

3. POSTAL VOTES WILL ALSO BE TAKEN ON SEVERAL PROPOSALS RELATING TO HERRING STOCKS WEST OF SCOTLAND. THE MAIN PROPOSAL CALLS FOR A TAC AND COUNTRY ALLOCATIONS WITH WHICH IRELAND HAS A DIFFCILUT TIME IN PARTICULAR BECAUSE NORWAY, A RECENT ENTRY INTO THE FISHER, WAS GIVEN A HIGHER QUOTA THAN IRELAND, A COASTAL STATE.

4. THE SOVIET DELEGATION EXTENDED A VAGUE INVITATION TO A MEETING TO BE HELD IN THE SOVIET UNION AROUND THE BEGINNING OF 1975 TO DISCUSS IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ON THE FISHERIES OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC. MEMBERS FROM BOTH NEAFC AND ICNAF WILL BE INVITED TO ATTEND. THE PROPOSAL WAS NEVER CLEARLY DEFINED THOUGH SUCH AGENDA ITEMS AS ENFORCEMENT POLICY AND SELECTED SPECIES, E.G., HERRING, COD AND SALMON, WERE REPORTEDLY MENTIONED AT DIFFERENT TIMES BY SOVIET OFFICIALS. NEAFC PRESIDENT, MOCKLINGHOFF, SAID THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD AWAIT FURTHER DETAILS CONCERNING THE PROPOSAL.

BEGIN COMMENT. IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT THE PROPOSED MEETING IS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD BETWEEN THE CURRENT SESSION OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE AND THE SESSION SCHEDULED FOR VIENNA. END COMMENT.

5. IN THE WEEK PRIOR TO THE MEETING, THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC NOTIFIED THE DEPOSITORY GOVERMENT OF ITS INTENTION TO ACCEDE TO THE NEAFC CONVENTION. ALTHOUGH THERE HAD NOT BEEN TIME TO NOTIFY FORMALLY ALL CONTRACTING STATES, THE COMMISSION APPROVED THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL THAT THE GDR DELEGATION BE TREATED AS A FULL MEMBER AT THE MEETING.

6. A SPECIAL MID-TERM MEETING OF THE COMMISSION HAS BEEN UNCLASSIFIED

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TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 4-9 IN HAMBURG. ON THE AGENDA WILL BE RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING MACKEREL, CERTAIN NORTH SEA DEMERSAL SPECIES, CELTIC SEA HERRING, AND SEVERAL OTHER DEFERRED ITEMS.

7. A DETAILED REPORT OF SUBJECT MEETING WILL FOLLOW BY AIRGRAM.

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